

Program Director Position, Structural Systems and Hazards Mitigation of Structures (SSHM), Division of Civil and Mechanical Systems (CMS), Directorate for Engineering at National Science Foundation

Posted: 3/24/00

Dear Colleague:

The Directorate for Engineering (ENG) announces a nationwide search to fill a Program Director position at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Division of Civil and Mechanical Systems (CMS).

The CMS Division includes 12 Program officers who manage an annual research budget of approximately \$50 million. The organization of the CMS Division is described at <http://www.eng.nsf.gov/cms/>. The CMS Division enables knowledge creation and intellectual growth in construction, geotechnical and geo-environmental engineering, structures, dynamics and control, mechanics, materials, tribology, and reduction of risks induced by earthquakes and other natural and technological hazards. The Division encourages cross-disciplinary research at the intersections and beyond the boundaries of traditional disciplines to promote discoveries and capitalize on emerging fields of science and engineering including nanotechnology and information technology.

This letter encourages expressions of interest from people with expertise in Structural Systems and Hazards Mitigation of Structures (SSHM). The SSHM portfolio includes research on new technologies for improving the behavior and response of structural systems subject to natural hazards; fundamental research on safety and reliability of constructed systems and of indoor environmental conditions; innovative developments in analysis and model based simulation of structural behavior and response including soil-structure interaction; design concepts that improve structure performance and flexibility; and application of new control techniques for structural systems.

The NSF environment is very demanding and exciting, and a Program Director has a tremendous opportunity to help shape the research agenda. NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in research and education that are fundamental to the nation's capacity to perform. To discharge this responsibility well requires not only domain knowledge, but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, and a high degree of personal integrity. NSF Program Directors are responsible for providing stewardship of integrated research and education in a particular discipline, a set of disciplines, and/or across disciplines within the context of agency vision, mission, and goals, and within the framework of guiding legislation and agency policies and resources.

The position require a Ph.D with a minimum of six or more years of successful research, administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the position. All appointees are expected to function both within specific program boundaries as well as in a team mode within virtual organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State

government agencies and private-sector organizations as necessary. Periodic appointments to leadership of inter-divisional, inter-directorate and interagency programs may be made.

The Program Director recruited under this announcement will be appointed for one to two years under the Visiting Scientist/Engineer or the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (VSE or IP ‘rotator’ position), or as a Temporary Federal Appointee. The specific arrangement will be decided on an individual basis. NSF is particularly interested in attracting qualified candidates from under-represented groups (women and minorities) to this position.

Please send questions, statements of interest, and resumes regarding the SSHM Program Director position to:

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CMS Personnel Search Coordinator
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Formal consideration of applications for the SSHM Program Director will commence immediately and will continue until a successful candidate has been identified.

Please consider spending a part of your career at NSF. If such an opportunity is difficult to arrange now, keep the idea alive and reconsider it in the future. Working as part of the NSF team of Program Directors will change the way you view the world, and you will be serving your technical community and the Nation. NSF encourages qualified people to apply from groups underrepresented in the engineering community. Please convey this message to your colleagues who, have a vision for the opportunities facing engineering in education and research, who would make a strong contribution to the work of the Directorate for Engineering, and who could meet the stimulating challenges of an appointment in the Foundation.

Sincerely,

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